

## THE ONTARIO ARGUS

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W. C. MARSH



## ANOTHER APPEAL FROM MEXICO.

Another urgent request for aid has come from American sufferers and refugees in Mexico City, this appeal asking for Washington administration to accept the situation as it actually exists, and not "for what it might be hoped that it may become." In other words, these poor sufferers ask that the national cat and mouse policy of watchful waiting be changed to one of more action.

The present administration finds itself in an unprecedented situation. With war in Europe and conditions arising every day that threaten to involve the United States in the foreign struggle, our president finds that we need real men at the head of affairs in Washington. So far we haven't got into the scrap, and there is probably no immediate danger of so doing. So far as the average American citizen knows, we have acquitted ourselves proudly so far as the European struggle is concerned. But as regards Mexico, even many of the strongest peace advocates will say nothing.

The latest appeal from Mexico is a rather lengthy affair, but it goes into the conditions in a clear and concise manner. It follows:

"The American residents in Mexico City do in mass meeting express their appreciation of the secretary of state's message of March 12, as communicated to them by the Brazilian minister. However, they most respectfully submit that it is their fixed opinion, deduced from the past four years' experience, that the time has come to accept the Mexican situation for what it is and not for what it might be hoped that it may become, or what interested leaders or warring factions may try to represent it to be.

"The record is clearly written in facts which show the true value of the pretensions of contending groups. They note the opinion of the president that he does not think it would contribute to their welfare to grant their request to make public their communication of March 9. They ask that it be made known to the president that it is their firm conviction that their duty requires them to take the people of the United States and of the civilized world into their fullest confidence and in the interests of humanity to lay before them the whole truth of the Mexican situation, and in the performance of this duty they earnestly invite and ardently hope for the aid and co-operation of the administration. They desire, insofar as they can, to controvert the systematic misrepresentation of the Mexican situation to put an end to evasion and repression of the truth in regard thereto, especially as to their own situation and attitude. They are not surprised that General Carranza should renew his promise 'To exert himself to the utmost to protect lives and property of foreigners,' but they submit that the true value of a promise should be estimated by what General Carranza has done and decreed since his triumphal entry into the city of Mexico on August 15 last.

"The arbitrary taking from Mexicans and foreigners of property, including houses here, automobiles, garages, furniture, money and crops; the issuing of decrees so in contravention of right, fairness and justice as to be almost incredible, the deliberate, persistent and ill-concealed attempt to starve a city of 500,000 inhabitants, depriving them of water, fuel and transportation; the shipping of defenseless women in locked cattle cars to Vera Cruz; the carrying away of controllers of electric street cars, thus paralyzing transit, the closing of the courts and schools; the holding of priests for ransom; the arrest and detention of 300 business men who had assembled at the request of the general in charge of the city; the persecution of Spaniards, suppression of mails and violation of sealed correspondence, both foreign and domestic; the removal of public archives and the stripping of public buildings; the open invitation to riot and loot; the sacking of churches and desecration of images; the killing of men and the outraging of women, are events too recent and well known to permit their being overlooked in forming judgment. The wantonness of such acts renders it impossible to accept the professions of the factionists or their counsels as to the course to be pursued by foreigners. It is the desire of the Americans in Mexico City to assist the Washington administration to find a solution for the perplexing international situation that exists, and to this end they request that their efforts be regarded as made in good faith and that their knowledge and experience of the Mexican situation be accorded full weight. They are willing to make a sacrifice if through them any ultimate good may accrue to the Mexican people or American prestige, but they feel that thus far the very opposite has been the result. They consider that American civilization is on trial and that it has a duty to perform to humanity which no longer should be prohibited.

"Mexico is drifting toward total destruction, from which a mistaken altruism is powerless to save it. The present struggle does not represent the efforts of a people to secure liberty and equal rights so much as a class of personal ambition and revenge.

"Americans in Mexico look to the administration for the protection which they believe it is their due to receive, and the administration's desire and unquestionable duty to afford; and they further respectfully express the hope that their views may be given such publication as may effectively assist the American people in forming a sound opinion of the Mexican situation."

Peace—honorable peace—is one of the greatest things to be desired just now. But war is one hundred times better than dishonorable peace. Let us harken back to the spirit of 1776 when our own government was given its life. No mincing of words with idle peace doves in those days. Go back to the days of 1860. No faltering footsteps mapped out our line of march in those days.

The olive branch has been hanging out to Mexico for a couple of winters now and is becoming pretty badly frayed. And fighting has continued in Mexico just the same. Promises have been broken, pledges have been wilfully forgotten, and we are no nearer the end than we were two or three years ago. It is said the job of trouncing Mexico would be a small one. But even a small job can sometimes be a disagreeable one. Caution is golden, but it is well known that inaction will cause the death of any "golden goose."

## INTEREST IN CANAL CELEBRATIONS.

That the series of celebrations planned by the cities of the Columbia valley for the week of May 3-8, 1915, in honor of the opening of The Dalles-Celilo canal, will eclipse in attendance, human interest and constructive publicity any public event of the year in the northwest is evident. From every section of the United States inquiries are pouring in upon the general committee, from press, commercial bodies and individuals, for information touching the enterprise to be commemorated and its bearing upon the territory with which it is related.

The actual participants in the celebration at various points will include official representatives of the United States government, the Pacific states, the army and navy, commercial organizations, navigation officers (pioneer and active), good roads enthusiasts and thousands of people from the farms and cities of the Columbia valley.

The program at the various points of celebration will be distinctive and, in addition to the recognition given the canal opening, will set forth the local elements relative to the open river. A marked feature of the festival will be the emphasis given to the construction of highways leading from the interior productive sections to strategic points on the river. In fact great road building campaigns seem to be developing at Lewiston, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Maryhill and Biggs. This part of the celebration will be given especial prominence in the program to be staged at Maryhill and Goldendale on May 5, where there will be a great assembly of good roads representatives of the northwest, and at Walla Walla, where the forenoon of May 4 will be devoted to the discussion of highways.

The formal opening at Big Eddy, May 5, will witness the presence in the canal of a great fleet of boats and thousands of people from the upper and lower reaches of the mighty river. Engineer F. C. Schubert is in charge of the local preparations and will provide a platform at the edge of the canal 20x60 feet for the use of speakers and distinguished guests as well as special lodges for official delegations and the two score young women who will act as sponsors, each bearing a bottle of water from a tributary of the Columbia.

The religious phase of the occasion will be set forth by an invocation by Rt. Rev. Charles J. O'Reilly, D. D., bishop of Baker City (in whose diocese the canal is located), and the benediction by Rev. Walter T. Sumner, D. D., bishop of Oregon. James S. Ramage, president of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, will give an address in behalf of the commercial bodies of the Columbia basin. One United States Senator and one member of Congress (to be designated) will present greetings on behalf of the United States government. Governor James Withycombe will extend a welcome in behalf of Oregon, Governor Ernest Lister for Washington and Governor Moses Alexander for Idaho. T. C. Elliott of Walla Walla will give a brief historical outline, and Joseph N. Teal of Portland, a review of the Celilo canal. Massed bands will render popular airs and the people will join in the national anthem. Engineer Schubert is arranging the celebration setting so that spectators on the boats and on shore will have equal opportunity for observation.

Preceding and following the formal opening, celebration features will be held at The Dalles, including a banquet at night, May 5. On May 6 celebrations will be held at Vancouver, Wash., and Portland, while the climax will take place at Astoria, Ore., May 7 and 8, in connection with the sixth annual convention of the Columbia and Snake River Waterways association, at which time full inspection will be made of all maritime and scenic interests at the mouth of the Columbia river.

## WHAT CONSTITUTES CIVILIZATION?

Closing stores and places of business at night gives a town a dead, deserted look.

In a chicken yard nothing is moving after dark, except the rats—and other vermin.

Closing theaters and other places on Sunday makes a town seem like a cemetery.

Empty streets and no one moving about—all in the country or at home asleep—kills all values.

Stopping people spending money and making fools of themselves, is a sure way to put a community on the bum.

Laws and ordinances to that effect deprive about half the people of the incentive to live—a strange fact.

One thing is certain—if we only bought necessities of life to eat and wear about half the business of the world would stop.

Millinery stores, tobacco shops, ice cream parlors, high heeled shoes, high priced hotels, parlor cars and X-ray gowns would go.

The arc light, fast trains, show windows, movies and living beauty dry goods displays would go.

Those who preach and write against these manifestations of civilization are harking back to barbarism.

We could all wear overalls, eat beans and graham bread, saw our own wood and drink rain water, but we would kill arts, industries and civilization.—Col. E. Hoffer in the Pacific Coast Manufacturer.

## CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING.

"Numerous agencies have done excellent work in placing farming upon a scientific basis," said C. E. Bassett, office of markets, United States Department of Agriculture, "especially that which has been accomplished by the state agricultural colleges and experiment stations and the United States Department of Agriculture toward increasing the production of agricultural products and making farm life better.

"However, we have now reached a point where farming must be placed upon a business as well as a scientific footing. The problem confronting us today is not so much that of increasing our production as that we shall be able to dispose of that which we do produce at an equitable price. Both producer and consumer are complaining—the consumer that he pays too much for that which goes to his breakfast table and the producer that he does not receive a fair price for that which he produces."

## Announcement!

Try our Crestlene Ice Cream, so choice and so appetizing that we are serving in our tempting ice cream sodas and sundaes, that will actually make your mouth water, all other sodas and sundaes too, with pure fresh syrups, all flavors, delicious and appetizing, at

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E. Cope, the only Practical Tailor in Ontario, is the only practical place to buy a suit made to your order. Others try to follow but don't succeed; get it here and get the best for the least money.

Suits made to order from  
**\$15.00 to \$50.00**

The only reliable and prompt cleaning and pressing in the city.

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No Starch No Gelatine

Prices

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For parties, picnics and family use  
per gallon \$1.25

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Ontario, - - Oregon

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BANK YOUR CASH WITH US



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